Complaints Against Officials of Gandhi Memorial Rajghat

2417. SHRI GOVNIDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have received any complaints against some high officers of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (Samadhi) at Rajghat for their alleged indulgence in drinking during office hours;

(b) if so, whether these have since been probed; and

(c) if so, athe details in this regard and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.
(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Credit-Linked Self-employment Package scheme under IRDP

2418. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any credit-linked self-employment package scheme under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of rural people benefited under the Scheme during 1994-95, 1995-96 and so far in 1996-97, and what is Government's plan for the next three years;

(c) whether there have been any reports of rampant corruption under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) IRDP is a major credit linked self employment programme aimed at providing assistance in the form of subsidy and term credit by the Government and financial institutions respectively, to enable poor families to cross the poverty line in rural areas. The number of rural families covered under this scheme is given below:—

Physical achievement	(No. of families in lakh)
1994-95	22.15
1995-96	20.86
1996-97 (Upto June 1996)	1.30

Recently, a number of measures to further revamp the scheme have been undertaken. These include:

(i) Subsidy amounting to Rs. 1.25 lakh or 50% of the project cost, whichever is less would be extended to all group ventures. Five or more persons living below the poverty line can farm themselves into groups for this purpose.

(ii) Enhanced Subsidy for trained educated rural youth living below poverty line. Youth belonging to this category would be entitled to a subsidy of Rs. 7500/- or 50% of the project cost whichever is less.

(iii) The permissible limit for programme infrastructure under IRDP has been enhanced to 25% in North Eastern States and 20% in the rest of the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Government has taken certain measure to prevent possible misuse/misutilisation of funds. These include: Setting up of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at block, district and State levels, extention of cash disbursement scheme, disbursement of loans before a Committee of Non-officials and introduction of backended subsidy.